

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Kageyama JP '742 and Takiguchi JP '105. Dependent claims 3, 6, 7 and 8 are also rejected, and independent claim 5 was not addressed. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to better define the present invention over the cited references, and applicants traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, a dried latex thin film, in which the thickness is in a range of 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm.

Neither Kageyama nor Takiguchi teach a puncture prevention layer formed of a dried latex thin-film, of which the thickness is in a range of 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm. In particular, Kageyama compounds liquid isoprene in solid rubber in order to reduce the viscosity of the rubber composition before vulcanization, and contains no suggestion of making use of a latex.

According to the present invention, the rubber-like thin-film is formed of a dried latex thin-film containing liquid isoprene rubber. The rubber-like latex thin-film has a breaking elongation of 900 % or more, and a tensile strength of 15 MPa or higher and a thickness of in a range of 0.1 to 1.0 mm, whereby an effective puncture prevention layer is formed with no increase in weight.

As is apparent from Table 2 of the present application, although the tires of Examples 1 and 2 had a puncture prevention layer one-fourth as thick as the Conventional Example and accordingly were lighter in weight, a remarkable puncture prevention

performance was demonstrated, comparable to the Conventional Example. This is an unexpected result for a skilled person in the art.

However, as can be seen from the Comparative Examples 1, 2 and 3, in order to attain a desirable puncture prevention performance, it was necessary to discover the suitable blending quantity of the liquid isoprene rubber and to satisfy the requirements defined in the present invention, in connection with both the breaking elongation and the tensile strength of the rubber-like thin-film. This solution is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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